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# AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY

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## AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

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1911.

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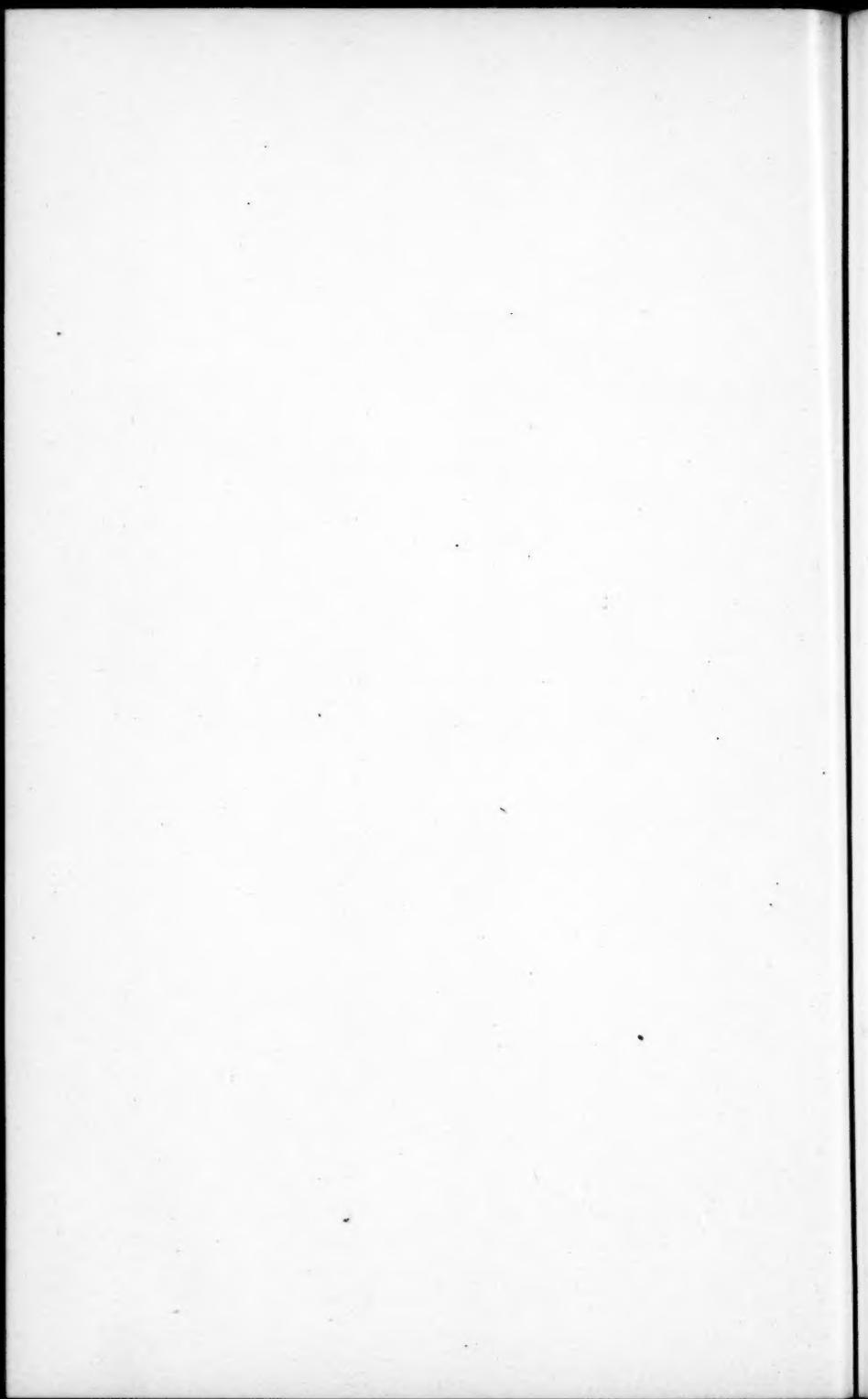
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## CHARTER OF INCORPORATION

GRANTED APRIL 13, 1854

*The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. George Bancroft, Henry Grinnell, Francis L. Hawks, John C. Zimmerman, Archibald Russell, Joshua Leavitt, William C. H. Waddell, Ridley Watts, S. De Witt Bloodgood, M. Dudley Bean, Hiram Barney, Alexander J. Cotheal, Luther B. Wyman, John Jay, J. Calvin Smith, Henry V. Poor, Cambridge Livingston, Edmund Blunt, Alexander W. Bradford, and their associates, who are now or may become hereafter associated for the purposes of this act, are hereby constituted a body corporate by the name of "The American Geographical and Statistical Society," for the purpose of collecting and diffusing geographical and statistical information.

§ 2. For the purposes aforesaid, the said Society shall possess the general powers and privileges, and be subject to the general liabilities, contained in the third title of the eighteenth chapter of the first part of the Revised Statutes, so far as the same may be applicable, and may not have been modified or repealed; but the real and personal estate which the said Society shall be authorized to take, hold, and convey, over and above its library, and maps, charts, instruments, and collections, shall not at any time exceed an amount the clear yearly income of which shall be ten thousand dollars.

§ 3. The officers of said Society shall be a president, three vice-presidents, a corresponding secretary, a recording secretary, a librarian, and a treasurer, and such other officers as may from time to time be provided for by the by-laws of the said Society.

§ 4. The said Society, for fixing the terms of admission of its members, for the government of the same, for changing and altering the officers above named, and for the general regulation and management of its transactions and affairs, shall have power to form a code of by-laws, not inconsistent with the laws of this State, or of the United States, which code, when formed and adopted at a regu-

lar meeting, shall, until modified or rescinded, be equally binding as this act upon the said Society, its officers, and its members.

§ 5. The Legislature may, at any time, alter or repeal this act.

§ 6. This act to take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW YORK,      } ss.:  
Secretary's Office.

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and hereby certify the same to be a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original law.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at the city of Albany, this  
[L. S.] thirteenth day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty-four.

A. G. JOHNSON,  
Deputy Secretary of State.

## AMENDED CHARTER

PASSED APRIL 8, 1871

STATE OF NEW YORK, No. 237, IN SENATE. *March 7, 1871.*—Introduced with unanimous consent, by Mr. Bradley; read twice, and referred to the Committee on Literature; reported favorably from said committee, and committed to the Committee of the Whole.

### CHAP. 373

AN ACT in relation to The American Geographical and Statistical Society.

PASSED April 8, 1871.

*The People of the State of New York represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION 1. The name or corporate title of the said Society shall hereafter be The American Geographical Society of New York.

§ 2. The object of the said Society shall be the advancement of geographical science; the collection, classification and scientific arrangement of statistics, and their results; the encouragement of explorations for the more thorough knowledge of all parts of the North American continent, and of other parts of the world which may be imperfectly known; the collection and diffusion of geographical, statistical and scientific knowledge, by lectures, printed publications, or other means; the keeping up of a correspondence with scientific and learned societies in every part of the world, for the collection and diffusion of information, and the interchange of books, charts, maps, public reports, documents, and valuable publications; the permanent establishment in the city of New York of an institution in which shall be collected, classified, and arranged, geographical and scientific works, voyages and travels, maps, charts, globes, instruments, documents, manuscripts, prints, engravings, or whatever else may be useful or necessary for supplying full, accurate, and reliable information in respect to every part of the globe, or explanatory of its geography, physical and descriptive; and its geological history, giving its climatology, its productions, animal, vegetable, and mineral; its exploration, navigation, and commerce;

having especial reference to that kind of information which should be collected, preserved, and be at all times accessible for public uses in a great maritime and commercial city.

§ 3. The power given by the act hereby accorded to the said Society, to take, hold, convey, manage, and make use of its real and personal estate, shall be understood as authorizing said Society to take and hold by gift, grant, bequest, devise, subject to all provisions of law relative to devises and bequests by last will and testament, or purchase real estate to the value of three hundred thousand dollars, and to invest its income, or its personal estate generally, so as to produce a regular annual income sufficient for the accomplishment of the purposes set forth in the first section of this act; but said annual income shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars annually.

§ 4. The said Society shall make an annual report of its proceedings to the Legislature.

STATE OF NEW YORK, {  
*Office of Secretary of State.* ss.:

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole of said original law.

Given under my hand and seal of office, at the city of Albany, this  
[L. S.] twenty-second day of May, in the year one thousand eight hundred  
and seventy-one.

**DIEDRICH WILLERS, JR.,**  
*Deputy Secretary of State.*

## LAWS OF NEW YORK

CHAP. 650

AN ACT allowing the American Geographical Society of New York to take and hold a larger amount of real and personal property than under previous acts relating to that Society.

BECAME a law May 13, 1895, with the approval of the Governor.  
Passed by a two-thirds vote.

*The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:*

SECTION I. The American Geographical Society of New York may hereafter take and hold by gift, grant, purchase, devise or bequest, subject, except in the matter of income, to all provisions of law relative to devises and bequests by last will and testament,

real and personal property to the amount of one million dollars, and any income therefrom accruing, for the uses, purposes and objects of the said Society.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.

---

STATE OF NEW YORK,      }  
*Office of Secretary of State.*      } *ss.:*

I have compared the preceding with the original law on file in this office, and do hereby certify that the same is a correct transcript therefrom and of the whole of said original law.

JOHN PALMER,  
*Secretary of State.*

BY-LAWS  
OF THE  
AMERICAN GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY  
AS AMENDED NOVEMBER 21, 1911

THE following By-Laws are hereby established as the rules and ordinances of the American Geographical Society, and all other By-Laws, Rules and Regulations heretofore made are hereby repealed.

CHAPTER I

MEMBERSHIP

1. The Society shall consist of Fellows and of Honorary and Corresponding Members.
2. Honorary Members shall be chosen on account of their distinction in the science of geography, or of statistics, and not more than three of them shall be elected in any one year.
3. Corresponding Members shall be chosen from those who communicate valuable information to the Society and who have promoted the knowledge of geography, or of statistics.
4. Fellows, Honorary Members and Corresponding Members shall be elected by the Society as follows: All nominations of candidates shall be made in writing at a meeting of the Council by a member thereof. The names of persons thus nominated, if approved by the Council, shall be recommended to the Society for election at its next stated meeting.
5. The name of any Fellow or Member of the Society may be dropped from the rolls by vote of the Council, without reference to the Society.

CHAPTER II

INITIATION FEE AND ANNUAL DUES

1. Each Fellow of the Society shall, immediately on election, pay an initiation fee of ten dollars, which shall be considered to include his annual dues for the current year.
2. The annual dues of each Fellow thereafter shall be ten dollars, payable in advance on the 1st of January.

3. Any Fellow of the Society, not in arrears, may commute for life all dues, by the payment at one time of one hundred dollars.
4. The name of any Fellow of the Society who has neglected for two successive years to pay the annual dues, or who at any time refuses to pay them, may, by the Council, be dropped from the list.
5. The fiscal year of the Society shall be the calendar year commencing January 1, and ending December 31.
6. Honorary and Corresponding Members shall be exempt from payment of initiation fee and annual dues.

### CHAPTER III

#### OFFICERS

1. The officers of the Society shall be a president, three vice-presidents, a foreign corresponding secretary, a domestic corresponding secretary, a recording secretary, a treasurer and fifteen councillors; and these together shall form the Council of the Society.
2. All the officers above-named shall be elected by the Society at its annual meeting.
3. No one shall be voted for, for any office, unless he has been nominated by the Council, or unless his nomination, made in writing by at least nine Fellows of the Society, has been conspicuously posted in the office of the Society for ten days prior to the date of the Annual Election.
4. The president and treasurer shall each be elected for one year and until their successors have been elected; and at each annual meeting there shall be elected one vice-president, one secretary, and five members of the Council, each for the term of three years and until their successors have been elected.
5. All officers to be elected may be voted for on one ballot.
6. There may also be an Honorary President who shall be appointed by the Council in recognition of distinguished and valuable services to the Society, and shall hold office during the pleasure of the Council. He shall be invited to attend all meetings of the Society, the Council and all Committees thereof, for the purposes of consultation and advice. He shall not be required to perform any duties.
7. Any Fellow of the Society, who has been such for twenty days and who is not in arrears for dues, shall be entitled to vote at the annual election.

**CHAPTER IV****ANNUAL MEETING**

1. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held on the second Monday in January, or on any other day which may be designated by the Council for the purpose.

2. At the annual meeting the Council shall present a report of the proceedings of the Society during the past year, and the treasurer shall present his annual report.

**CHAPTER V****MONTHLY AND SPECIAL MEETINGS**

1. The Society, unless it is at any time specially ordered otherwise by the Council, shall hold a stated meeting for the transaction of business on the second Monday of each month except July, August, September and October.

2. The president, or, in his absence or incapacity, one of the vice-presidents, may, and upon the written request of the Council or of twenty-five members of the Society shall, call a special meeting of the Society by giving three days' notice thereof in two daily newspapers published in the city of New York.

**CHAPTER VI****ORDER OF BUSINESS**

1. At stated meetings of the Society the order of proceedings shall be:

Reading of the minutes.

Reports and communications from officers of the Society.

Communications from the Council.

Reports from committees.

Election of members.

Miscellaneous business.

Papers and Addresses.

2. All propositions presented to the Society at any meeting, for action, shall be in writing. A proposition thus presented, when seconded, shall be deemed to be in possession of the Society and open for discussion, but may be withdrawn by the mover at any time before amendment or decision.

3. No member shall speak more than five minutes, nor more than once, upon the same question, until all other members present have

had an opportunity to be heard, nor more than twice on any question, unless leave is specially granted by the Society.

## CHAPTER VII

### QUORUM

1. At meetings of the Society nine members present shall constitute a quorum.

## CHAPTER VIII

### COMMITTEES

1. Each committee authorized by the Society shall consist of three members, who shall, unless otherwise ordered, be appointed by the chairman.

## CHAPTER IX

### PRESIDING OFFICER

1. At all meetings of the Society, on the arrival of the appointed hour and the presence of a quorum, the president, or, in his absence, one of the vice-presidents, or, in the absence of all of these officers, a Fellow of the Society shall take the chair and call the meeting to order.

2. The chairman shall have only a casting vote. He shall preserve order and decide all questions of order, subject to an appeal to the Society. At every annual meeting, before the opening of the polls, he shall appoint two tellers of the election. In case of a contest, he may declare the election postponed to the next meeting, in order that a corrected poll list may be prepared by the secretary and verified by the Council; but only one such postponement shall be made.

## CHAPTER X

### SECRETARIES

1. It shall be the duty of the Foreign Corresponding Secretary to conduct the correspondence of the Society with individuals and associate bodies in foreign countries.

2. It shall be the duty of the Domestic Corresponding Secretary to conduct the correspondence of the Society with individuals and associate bodies in the United States.

3. In case of vacancy in the office of either of the corresponding secretaries, or in the absence or disability of either of these

officers, the duties of either may be performed by the other secretary, or by the librarian.

4. The secretaries shall keep in books at the rooms of the Society copies of all letters written by them, and shall file at the said rooms all letters received by them on behalf of the Society.

5. At each stated meeting of the Council they shall respectively report their correspondence, and read the same or such parts thereof as may be required.

6. The Council may designate a particular officer, or appoint a committee, to prepare a letter or conduct a correspondence on any special subject.

7. It shall be the duty of the Recording Secretary to give due notice of all meetings of the Society and to attend the same. He shall keep adequate minutes of the proceedings of the Society. He shall give immediate notice to officers and committees of all votes, orders, resolves, and proceedings affecting them or pertaining to their respective duties. He shall at each annual election hand to the tellers a list of the members of the Society entitled to vote. He shall have charge of the seal of the Society and of the charter, by-laws, records and general archives, except so far as they may be placed by the Council in charge of others. He shall sign and affix the seal of the Society to all diplomas, deeds or other documents authorized by the Society or Council.

8. All documents in charge of the secretaries shall be kept at the rooms of the Society, unless otherwise specially ordered by the Council.

## CHAPTER XI

### TREASURER

1. The Treasurer shall have charge of all deeds, contracts, bonds, certificates, securities and muniments of title belonging to the Society. He shall collect all dues to the Society and keep the funds safely deposited in some incorporated bank or trust company approved by the Council.

2. Funds so deposited may be drawn out only by check of the Treasurer, countersigned by the Chairman of the Council, or by such other officers as may be designated by the Council and authorized to sign checks in case of the absence or incapacity of the Treasurer or the Chairman or both.

3. The Treasurer shall, prior to the annual meeting of the Society, prepare and submit to the Council for audit a detailed ac-

count of his receipts and disbursements during the past year, which account, duly audited and approved, he shall present to the Society at the annual meeting.

## CHAPTER XII

### COUNCIL

1. The Council shall have the management and control of the affairs, property, library, and funds of the Society, and shall transact all such business of the Society as is not required to be transacted by the Society at a stated meeting. It shall designate a bank or trust company in the city of New York in which the funds shall be deposited by the treasurer. It shall have charge of and edit all the publications of the Society.

2. It may adopt rules for its own government, not inconsistent with the charter and by-laws of the Society; and appoint such standing and special committees as it may deem proper, and define their duties. It shall appoint the librarians, clerks and other servants of the Society, and fix the powers, duties, privileges and compensation of each. But no appointment shall be made which shall not be revokable at the pleasure of the Council.

3. It shall have power to fill for the unexpired term any vacancy that may occur in its own body or in any of the offices of the Society, and it may declare a vacancy to exist in any office whenever the incumbent thereof is, by reason of absence or otherwise, incapable of performing its duties. It shall have power to declare vacant the seat of any member of its own body (except the president and vice-presidents) who shall have been absent from its meetings for three successive months. It shall have power to elect for life an Honorary President of the Society in accordance with the provisions of Chapter III, Section 6 of these By-Laws.

4. The Council may for good cause remit the annual dues of any Fellow of the Society.

5. No member of the Council shall, directly or indirectly, receive any salary or pecuniary compensation for his services to the Society.

## CHAPTER XIII

### ALTERATION OF BY-LAWS

No alteration in these by-laws shall be made, unless proposed in writing at a stated meeting of the Society and referred to the Council for consideration, and approved by the Council and adopted by the Society at a subsequent meeting.